Message Text

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PAGE 01 ALEXAN 00208 161505Z ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 ACDA-12 /084 W

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P 161440Z MAR 78 FM AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1643 INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY

CONFIDENTIAL ALEXANDRIA 0208

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: PINT, EG, IS, LE

SUBJECT: LOCAL REACTION TO ISRAELI ATTACK ON LEBANON

- 1. ITITIAL SOUNDINGS INDICATE THAT ALEXANDRIANS ARE NOT RPT NOT UNDULY UPSET AT ISRAELI ATTACK ON SOUTHERN LEBANON. IN GENERAL PEOPLE FEEL PALESTINIANS HAVE HANDLED MATTERS RATHER BADLY AND THAT THE PLO SHOULD NOT HAVE UNDERTAKEN THE RAID ON ISRAEL THAT PRECIPITATED THE RETALIATION. THERE IS THUS SOME FEELING THAT PALESTINIAN LEADERSHIP BROUGHT THE ATTACK ON THEMSELVES.
- 2. THERE IS ALSO SOME RESENTMENT HERE AGAINST PALESTINIANS BECAUSE THE PALESTINIAN COMMANDO RAID APPEARED TO BE DESIGNED TO DISRUPT THE PEACE PROCESS, INITIATED BY EGYPT. ONE LOCAL REPORT IS THAT REJECTIONISTS ARE RUMORING THAT EGYPT FOMENTED THE ISRAELI REACTION TO THE PALESTINIAN RAID*
- 3. ALEXANDRIANS STILL RETAIN A BASIC SYMPATHY FOR THE SUFFERING MASS OF PALESTINIANS (WHO BEAR THE BRUNT OF ISRAELI ATTACKS), AS DISTINGUISHED FROM THE 'FAT' PALESTINIAN LEADERSHIP THEY BELIEVE IS PROFITING FROM MIDEAST UNREST. HOWEVER, THIS SYMPATHY IS SOMEWHAT STRAINED UNDER THE PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES. MCCLELLAND

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Subject: LOCAL REACTION TO ISRAELI ATTACK ON LEBANON

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